New Rail Lines in Himachal Pradesh

†1096. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating any scheme for Rail transport and for laying new rail lines in Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and since when this demand is pending with Government, alongwith reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The work on Nangal Dam-Talwara new line project is in progress between Una-Churaru Takrala (16 Kms.) on the stretches where land has been made available by the State Government. In this section, two major bridges are in progress and will be completed in 2000-2001. On Kalka-Parwanoo new line project, final location survey is in progress.

Demand for Trains; from Rishikesh

†1097. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Rishikesh, the last Railway Station of Northern Railway, is situated at the entry point of four districts of Garhwal division of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether there has been a demand for a long time to run two trains towards Delhi and Lucknow from there;

(c) whether Government would make efforts to provide all the facilities* at this station, that are important from this angle, in the coming financial year; and

(d) if so, by when; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Representations have been received in this regard from time to time. However, provision of additional train services between Rishikesh and Delhi/Lucknow have been examined but not found feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.